

Statement of Interest – Statewide Long-Term Care Reform

Organization Name(s):

Rock County (Human Services Department, Developmental Disabilities Board, Rock Haven Nursing Home, Council on Aging, Public Health Department) and The Management Group, Inc. (TMG).

Contact Person and Contact Person's Organization:

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Brief Description of Organization:

Rock County has a 29-member Board of Supervisors, which operates under a committee system and a County Administrator form of government. In Rock County there are multiple agencies involved in long-term care, including the Human Services Department, the Developmental Disabilities Board, Rock Haven Nursing Home, the Council on Aging, and the Public Health Department.

The Rock County Human Services Department operates the Long Term Support (LTS) program that provides assessment, case plans, and ongoing case management for eligible individuals. The primary target groups who receive services through Long Term Support are the elderly (age 65 and older) and the physically/sensory disabled (age 18 to 64). In addition, LTS is the County's designated elder abuse investigative agency and LTS staff recruit and certify adult family homes for clients of the Human Services Department and the Developmental Disabilities Board. Services are delivered through the use of County, State and Federal funding sources to assist eligible residents to maintain independence in the community. Funding sources include Basic County Allocation, Community Options Program, Medicaid Community Waivers (CIP-II and COP-W), Alzheimer Family and Caregivers Support Program, GM/UAW, and limited County tax levy. Long Term Support staff is an integral part of case plan development, bringing together vital community services in an effort to assist individuals. Staff provide, arrange, and manage numerous community based long-term support programs. Services are designed to enable people to live in the least restrictive community setting possible.

The Rock County Developmental Disabilities Board provides services to Rock County residents who are developmentally disabled or who may have sustained a traumatic brain injury. Services are available to eligible individuals from birth to death. Eligible individuals may include those who are mentally retarded or have epilepsy, cerebral palsy, a traumatic brain injury, or conditions requiring similar treatment. The Developmental Disabilities Board provides services to eligible consumers by accessing numerous funding sources, including Medicaid Community Waivers (CIP-1A and CIP-1B), Family Support Program, Children's Waiver, Community Options Program, Brain Trauma, MA Personal Care, BCA and limited County tax levy. The Developmental Disabilities Board contracts out all case management and direct services.

Rock County operates Rock Haven, a 156-bed skilled nursing facility, and is in the process of closing 24 ICF/MR beds and relocating those residents in community placements.

The Rock County Council on Aging is committed to helping preserve the independence, self-worth, and dignity of all older residents of Rock County by addressing issues of health, nutrition, transportation, information and assistance, benefits counseling, care giving, independent living, elder abuse, and social needs. The Information and Assistance Program is the cornerstone of the Council on Aging's service to the county's older population. The primary purpose of the program, which has a dedicated staff position, is to support all older persons and their caregivers in assessing their needs, identifying the most appropriate services to meet their needs, and linking the older person and caregiver to the agencies providing these services. The Council on Aging also supports two-and-one-half full-time benefit specialists. With guidance from elder law attorneys, the benefit specialists offer information, advice, and assistance to older

individuals related to individual eligibility for, and problems with, public benefits and services and to health care financing insurance, housing, and other financial and consumer concerns.

The Rock County Public Health Department performs a wide variety of services in the two general areas of Public Health Nursing and Environmental Health. Public Health nurses provide an assessment and plan of care for individuals in the Community Options Program referred by Long Term Support.

Rock County also has county staff that provides services through the Community Support Program, Crisis Intervention, and outpatient mental health services. In addition to the provided crisis stabilization services, Rock County contracts for an 8-bed crisis stabilization facility, detoxification services, AODA treatment services, and inpatient psychiatric treatment.

Interest in Planning and Implementation of Long-Term Care Reform in Wisconsin:

Rock County understands the importance of coordinated services and providing a continuum of care. People do not fall neatly into the target populations of elderly, physically disabled, or developmentally disabled. Many of these individuals also have behavioral, mental health, and substance abuse issues that need to be addressed together with the services provided under any managed long-term care organization. We want to participate in the process to ensure that our citizens receive quality services in a cost effective manner. The county has well-established intake and case management systems with a wide variety of community resources available for the elderly, physically disabled, and developmentally disabled. We are interested in exploring what can be achieved through managed long-term care as evidenced by Family Care and Partnership programs ability to expand service to citizens without any required increases of county funds.

Geographic Area of Interest:

Rock County wants to explore the best 'fit' for Rock County including partnering on a regional basis. Rock County has already met with Elder Care of Wisconsin and Community Living Alliance to discuss our mutual programs and gather information about each other's organization. We have also spoken with Dane County and other nearby counties regarding managed long-term care and have mutual concerns about how to structure such programs.

Proposed Scope and Nature of the Program:

Rock County has been operating traditional programs since the inception of the Community Options and Medicaid Home and Community Based Waiver programs and has a well-trained, experienced staff. Rock County currently serves 2,200 individuals in our Long Term Care and Developmental Disabilities programs. Both programs have waiting lists for services. Rock County wants to ensure that our citizens continue to receive high quality services in the most cost effective manner possible.

We have had preliminary discussions with TMG, Elder Care of Wisconsin, and Community Living Alliance, organizations that have extensive knowledge and experience in managed long-term care. In addition, we have had contacts with several other counties who are also in the planning process or who have implemented managed long-term care.

Rock County currently does not operate an ADRC or a Family Care, Partnership or SSI Managed care model. We will be seeking a planning grant to explore those models, learn from their experience, and decide what will work best for Rock County citizens.

Other Comments of Information:

Rock County believes it is necessary to get technical assistance in preparing our county for long-term managed care and is willing to participate in the planning process.